During the mid 1700’s the Kickapoo Indians migrated into the east central Illinois area, displacing the Illiniwek clan. The Grand Village of the Vermilion Band of the Kickapoo tribe was established about four miles west of present-day Danville, Illinois, near the mouth of the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River.

Not far from there, near the Salt Fork they harvested a scarce and precious commodity… salt. Natural salt springs fed into the Salt Fork. During dry months, as the water evaporated, salt crusts would form along the banks. These would be collected for personal use and for trading.

The Kickapoo named the salt-bearing creeks Onaquispasippi.

For Packs

Packs may wish to hike a section of the trail suitable for younger hikers. Marked with a dotted line, (· · · · · · · · · · ) it starts at the Trading Post. When the trail crosses the entrance road at point “P”, follow the road north, returning to the main parking area.